

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /165 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC:FJDEVINE--LA/DR:JRBREEN:LB

APPROVED BY ARA:HSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/NC/C:JFMAISTO

ARA/NC/C:ECARTER

AA/LA:HKLEINE

LA/DP:LHARRISON

PPC:JROUSH (INFO)

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R 122012Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, US

SUBJECT: US-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS IN AN ELECTION YEAR

REF: A) BOGOTA 8786; B) KLEINE-ELLIS LETTER SEPTEMBER 25,
1973

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL OBSERVATIONS SET FORTH
REFTEL AND AGREES WITH YOU THAT SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
AND UNDERSTANDING ARE CALLED FOR IN DEALING WITH COLOMBIA
AS THAT COUNTRY APPROACHES EXERCISE OF REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRACY IN FORM OF NATIONAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL
24.

2. U.S. CAN OBVIOUSLY LIVE WITH EITHER OF TWO MAJOR CAN-
DIDATES FOR PRESIDENCY AND OUR CONDUCT DURING CAMPAIGN
PERIOD SHOULD BE SUCH AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE
INTERESTED BUT IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS OF ELECTORAL PROCESS.

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3. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, WE AGREE THAT PRUDENT AND BALANCED RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE SOUGHT BETWEEN AID DISBURSEMENTS AND GOC CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER SECTOR LOANS. PAST GOC RESENTMENT OVER PRESSURE WE HAVE HAD TO EXERT TO CLOSE EXCESSIVE GAPS IN THIS RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE.

4. YOUR CLOSE AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE "FLOAT" PROBLEM WILL BE APPRECIATED. PLEASE REPORT ON PRO-

GRESS OF USAID/GOC DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVES PER REF B. CLEARLY, A SOLUTION MUST BE ARRIVED AT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO SIGNING OR POSTPONEMENT OF NEW SECTOR LOANS IN EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, WE ARE INCLINED TO RESPECT DECISION AT WHICH YOU AND AID DIRECTOR MAY ARRIVE. IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS YOU WILL WISH TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS DEOBLIGATION OF EXISTING CY 1973 LOAN BALANCES, AND/OR DEAUTHORIZATION OF PART OR ALL OF OUTSTANDING AUTHORIZED LOANS BEFORE JANUARY AND THEIR RAMIFICATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER AND TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR NET RECOMMENDATION.

6. WITH ELECTION IN APRIL AND INAUGURATION IN AUGUST, OBVIOUS QUESTION ARISES AS TO POLITICAL TIMING OF NEW ASSISTANCE MEASURES. IN ADDITION TO EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION CAPACITY OF OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION, WE CAN ALSO REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER WISDOM OF ENTERING INTO NEW COMMITMENTS WITH LAME-DUCK ADMINISTRATION AS OPPOSED TO HOLDING OUR FIRE AND CONSERVING OUR RESOURCES FOR POSSIBLY MORE CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT THEY COULD HAVE IF MADE AVAILABLE SPECIFICALLY TO NEW INCOMING ADMINISTRATION WITH WHICH WE CAN EXPECT TO BE DEALING OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS.

7. IBRD REPRESENTATIVES SAY IMF HAS ENCOURAGED GOC TO CUT DOWN INVESTMENT THIS YEAR AND THAT GOC IS MORE OR LESS CONFIDENTIAL

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LIVING UP TO COMMITMENTS MADE IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING IN PARIS. NEVERTHELESS, WE APPRISED THEM OUR CONCERN THAT IT SEEMED THAT SOCIAL SECTORS, HERETOFORE CONSIDERED PRIORITY, WERE FIRST TO FEEL IMPACT REDUCTIONS IN GOC INVESTMENT BUDGET. ZENICK AND HYDE ARE COMING TO BOGOTA NOV. 12 TO ASSESS FISCAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS CURRENT AID POLICY PROBLEMS WITH THEM.

8. DEPT. INVITES YOUR CONTINUING VIEWS AND DIALOGUE ON
THESE AND RELATED MATTERS IN INTEREST OF MAINTAINING BEST
POSSIBLE AND MOST EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH COLOMBIA
DURING PERIOD OF TRANSITION WHICH LIES AHEAD. RUSH

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